REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 30, 2005 has been carefully considered. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-17 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 16 being the only independent claims and claims 12-14 being withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-11 and 15-17 have been amended. Claims 2 and 5 have been canceled, without prejudice. Reconsideration of the application, as amended herein and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim 16 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and intervening claims (claims 2, 5 and 15). Thus, claim 16 and claim 17, which depends from claim 16, should now allowable.

The specification has been amended to recite a radial pocket formed in the inside wall of sleeve section 15, thereby providing antecedent basis for language in claim 1 as presently amended.

Claims 1-11 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,767,010 (Miller). To the extent that Miller would be applied against claim 1 as presently amended, such rejection is traversed for the reasons following.

The Examiner has broadly interpreted applicant's recitation of "means for preventing rotation" as reading on the initially formable material disclosed by Miller, and apparently interprets the term "circumferentially limited anti-rotation profile" as reading on the circumferential walls disclosed by Miller. Applicants intended this recitation to mean the radially extending surfaces which face in the circumferential direction, and thereby assist in preventing rotation. Nevertheless, claim 1 has been amended to explicitly recite the at least one radial pocket formed in the inside wall

of the sleeve section. In Figure 1, which can be taken as a non-limiting example, the radial pockets 21 formed in the inside wall 25 of sleeve section 15 are circumferentially limited, i.e., provide surfaces which face circumferentially and thereby cooperate with the formable material to prevent rotation.

Since Miller does not disclose or suggest a radial pocket formed in the inside of sleeve section 15, claim 1 as presently amended herein is believed to define patentably over Miller.

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over DE 85 10 058. To the extent that this reference would be applied against claim 1 as presently amended, such rejection is traversed for the reasons following:

DE '058, which is discussed in Miller U.S. 6,767,010 as well as the present application, discloses a spring plate supported in a retaining ring which can be attached to the cylinder. It is this ring which determines the height of the spring perch, and it is this ring which the Examiner reads as applicants "initially formable material". While applicants feel that that this is an unduly broad reading, DE '058 neither discloses or suggests any radial pocket which receives the "initially formable material". That is, the ring cannot penetrate a pocket, because it is solid, and therefore cannot serve as an anti-rotation device.

The claims as amended being definite and patentable over the art of record, withdrawal of the rejections and early allowance are solicited. If any objections remain, a call to the undersigned is requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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